

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 4 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2, 3 and 5-22 are pending.

Claims 5 and 18, which have been indicated to be allowable, have been  
5 rewritten in independent form.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, claims 5 and 18 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 19 has been amended to also incorporate the limitations  
of original claim 18 regarding the plate thicknesses, and is thus now similar to allowable  
claim 18 except for its further recitation of first and second reinforcing bodies (versus the  
claim 18 recitation of only one reinforcing body).<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, claim 19 is also believed  
10 to be allowable.

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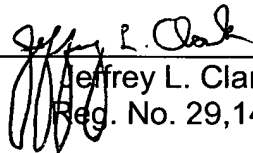
<sup>1</sup>Claims 5 and 18 have also been amended to clarify that the plate flat portions, not the plates themselves, are spaced to define the channels, as described in the specification at page 6, lines 4-8.

<sup>2</sup>Also, references in claims 6 and 10 (and in claim 4 incorporated into claim 5) to reinforcing "member" have been corrected to reinforcing "body".

The remaining claims variously depend from allowable independent claims 5, 18 and 19. Accordingly, all of pending claims 2, 3 and 5-22 are believed to be allowable. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 2, 2005

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